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R E P O R T

NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY  
WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION

March 27-29, 1944

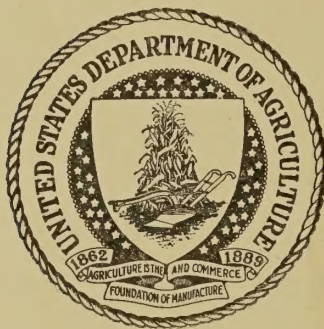
New York, N.Y.

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## R E P O R T

## NORTHEAST REGIONAL CONFERENCE

Agricultural Adjustment Agency  
War Food Administration

New York City

March 27, 28 and 29, 1944

*Purpose:* Reviewing the present situation and outlining where we need to concentrate our efforts to do the best possible production job in the Northeast this year, were the main jobs of the conference. 1/ 2/

*Organization:* The meeting was attended by about 400 representatives of Northeastern agriculture -- 80 percent of them farmers. They included State committeemen, a county committeeman from nearly every county in the region, state and regional office key people, farmer-fieldmen, representatives of the Extension Service, including county agents, from each State, several of the State Commissioners of Agriculture, and regional representatives of other cooperating organizations.

The representatives from the cooperating agencies were working members of the conference, participating in the discussions and working with the committees. Someone from each of these agencies made a brief talk to the group, 3/ outlining his organization's part in the agricultural program and offering continued active cooperation. These people contributed greatly to the success of the meeting.

*Committees:* Committees were named to work on two problems -

*What to do* -- to pick out the points where it is important to get more done in the region; and

*How to do it* -- to plan the steps needed to be taken to get that "more" done and done right.

The recommendations of these committees, as adopted by the conference, specified, first, what people in the states, counties and on the farms can do; and second, what the government can do to help.

- 1/ *Purposes of the Conference: The issues before us*--Summary of talk by A. W. Manchester, AAA, page 5.
- 2/ *What Further Increases in Production in Northeast Are Feasible*--Summary of talk by W. S. Middaugh, BAE, page 6.
- 3/ *Summaries of talks by representatives of cooperating organizations*, pages 7, 8 and 9.



*Feed.* The conference agreed that the most pressing production need in the Northeast is to raise more grain for feed or forage to substitute for grain. Two steps were recommended: (1) raise more corn for grain--and, on land or in sections not adapted to corn, raise oats, barley and buckwheat. More per acre, it was emphasized, is as important as more acres. They stressed fertilizing liberally every acre that ought to be fertilized.

It was decided that the need for raising more grain should be brought to the attention of every farmer, along with the facts about fertilizer, and about higher yielding varieties. It was suggested that county corn acreage goals be set so that the drive might have definite local objectives. And

(2) raise more and better hay and pasture. The group called for the use of nitrogen on grass land. Nitrogen can be applied on hay land after the first cutting and on pastures to stimulate growth in late summer when the feed will be needed most.

The Extension Service was asked to intensify programs that will help produce more and better forage crops and pastures.

The conference also asked that the protein set-aside order, which they felt has made a definite contribution, be continued as a safeguard to future production of poultry, dairy and livestock products.

*Milk.* The farmers in the principal market milk areas expect an unusually high peak of milk production with abnormally large surpluses this spring. They desire two types of action: (1) Measures to even out production as much as possible. Milk price has much less seasonal variation than formerly. As a result, farmers naturally tend to concentrate production when it is cheapest and easiest. That means big spring surpluses and serious late fall shortages. The conference went on record as recommending a sharp seasonal differential in milk payment rates to do all possible to encourage fall milk, and that the rates be announced as soon as possible in order that farmers may be encouraged to take the steps necessary to prevent the fall drop in production as far as is possible now. (2) Measures to prevent waste of skim milk during the spring flush. A good deal of skim milk appears likely to be wasted in milk plants that usually do not have enough of it to justify installing processing equipment. This happens to a limited extent every year, but the quantity this year is likely to be larger than usual. Committeemen want this good food saved. They suggest two steps: (a) That milk administrators be given authority to relax fluid milk sales quotas temporarily in cases where the quantity of excess is too small to permit efficient manufacturing and assembly is not practical; (b) That WFA purchase skim milk at a very low price, ship it to condensers or dehydrators who will process it under contract in cases in which otherwise it would not be profitable to salvage.

*Eggs.* Much interest was shown in WFA's new measures for supporting egg prices. The conference recommended that support be extended to small producers through area assembly point purchasing. They asked that when grading and handling facilities cannot be obtained through private industry, these services be provided by WFA's Office of Distribution. It was also recommended that Federal purchasing agents not accept eggs for which producers have received less than the support price.

Copies of the recommendations of Committee I - What to Do, and Committee II - How to Do It, are attached to this report. <sup>4/</sup>



"A Better Peace": One session of the conference was devoted to the subject, Building for a Good Peace While Winning the War on the Farm Front, 5/ 6/ 7/ and a special committee was named to look a little farther ahead than the immediate job. The committee was reminded that "there isn't any 'now' and 'hereafter'"-- that what we do now and how we do it is helping decide not only how soon the boys on the fighting line come home, but is also shaping the kind of country they will come home to.

The conference, through this committee, named these objectives:

1. Cooperation of agriculture, management, labor, and government on all problems.
2. Full employment in both industry and agriculture.
3. A fair share of the national income for *all* groups.
4. Continuation of the economic stabilization program, at least through the period of postwar readjustment.

We recommend that you read the entire committee report, which is attached. 8/ It deserves the careful study and consideration of every thoughtful person.

5/ *National Farm Problems and Policies: A Look Ahead*--Summary of talk by R. M. Evans, Federal Reserve Board, Page 10.

6/ *Problems Ahead of Northeast Agriculture*--Summary of talk by H. W. Soule, AAA, Vermont, Page 11.

7/ *Challenge of Today; Moral Issues in Farm Policies*--Summaries of two talks by George Dykhuizen, Department of Philosophy, University of Vermont, Pages 22 and 23.

8/ Page 18



*Summary of Monday morning session:* One of the highlights of the conference was the opening session, when War Food Administrator Marvin Jones, Assistant Administrator Grover Hill, Food Production Deputy Administrator D. A. FitzGerald, and O. V. Wells, Chief Program Analyst, Bureau of Agricultural Economics, outlined the national situation and discussed informally with the entire group their problems.

Replying to statements on the acute shortage of labor in some areas, Mr. Jones pledged the War Food Administration to do everything in its power to assist the farmers, but emphasized that much of the responsibility must be assumed locally. "The labor problem is a tough one from every angle," he said. "I wish we could give you assurance that you will have all the labor you need. I'd rather do more than I promise, than promise more and do less. We are going to do everything we can to help, and we know you are going to do everything you can for an early victory."

Judge Jones commended the job being done in making the available supply of farm machinery contribute its maximum to production. He mentioned the improvising, repairing, and sharing of available equipment. "Anybody can do an easy job," he said. "It takes strength of character to do a hard one."

Addressing the conference, Grover Hill emphasized that there are not two separate fronts--the battle and the home front. "The battle front can only be as good as the so-called home front can make it. Nothing is going to be quite right until this war is over. But we haven't got down to the desperate situation of some of the other countries--we are still the best fed, best clothed country in the world."

Mr. Jones closed the session with a brief talk. He paid a tribute to the AAA committee system, and told the group that years ago, as a Member of Congress, he led the fight for the committee plan, because he recognized that it is the lifeline--the vital line that makes the machinery go. "If the American people get to where they are not a part of the organization and effort, then we will cease to be a great nation. The plan goes back," he said, "to the whole philosophy of our government--so different from dictatorship. Some people think our government is down in Washington. That's just the machinery of our government. The government is out in all areas of the country."

Mr. Jones expressed his hope for a more permanent peace. "For thousands of years the earth has trembled beneath the threat of war. Nearly every great issue between nations has had to be settled beneath the smoke of battle. I hope we will have learned that the way to settle rivalries is for each nation to build up its resources rather than to tear down its neighbors. I hope we can be creative rather than destructive, and that commerce will carry products of a free people in common exchange."

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PURPOSES OF THE CONFERENCE: THE ISSUES BEFORE US--Summary of a talk by A. W. Manchester, Northeast Regional Director, AAA: There are at least three purposes of this conference: (1) Concentration of our efforts at a few critical points where they can count the most; (2) Planned action. For AAA this means a plan by which every part of the organization has its planned part to do; (3) Fuller cooperation...Up to now the food program has been successful beyond anything we could have hoped for. There is a smaller proportion of our population undernourished than ever before. Of course there ought not to be anybody, any time, in this country undernourished or malnourished, save because of his own wilfulness...

We are due to do a job this year, for the war inevitably gets harder as it moves toward the climax. Some things will be a little better -- machinery, fertilizer and spray materials, for instance. And the price picture will, as a whole, be fair...But there are other things that aren't so favorable. We grow shorter of manpower. Lumber and market packages will be more scarce. Over half our total lumber output is packaging the shipments that give our boys the things to fight with. Trucks and tires will be scarce--that your boys and mine may have them. We'll have to be careful of gasoline. You know why. I could recite other difficulties. So could you. But -- we've found out a lot about how to deal with these things, how to get the most from short supplies, how to distribute justly and productively. We've learned a lot about how to fight a war on the food front. We have organizations that can do the jobs that have to be done. That's a great gain. We really have a food army now worthy of the name. It's an army of volunteers, but orderly, systematic volunteers, each doing about the part he ought to do.

It's the job of this conference to answer two questions: (1) What to do-- to pick out the points where it's important to get more done, and get them better done than if we just let matters carry on on their own. And (2) How to do it-- to determine what steps need to be taken to get that "more" done and how we can best deploy and employ our forces to that end.

To me the most impressive thing about my contacts with the boys in the service is their concentration on the time after the war. We are going to talk a little about that time here. We owe it to them to do our job day by day, to dedicate our best--our best in unselfishness and devotion to the common good, our best in rising above our prejudices, and if necessary, above the bonds of habit and convention--that they may find an America worthy of their sacrifices. America is our trust while they are away. God grant we don't betray it and them. At least we are going to try to face some of these issues here. We're not all-wise, but we won't dodge the biggest issues of our day.



\*WHAT FURTHER INCREASES IN PRODUCTION IN THE NORTHEAST ARE FEASIBLE?--

W. S. Middaugh, Bureau of Agricultural Economics: As a basis for considering further increases in production that the Northeast is best adapted to make in 1944, let us first look at the types of agricultural production that region is fundamentally adapted to engage in for the long pull. From the standpoint of climate, soils, and topography, the region as a whole is in general adapted to a grassland type of farming. From the standpoint of markets, the Northeast is advantageously placed for the production of bulky, perishable products because of the nearness of its farms to great consuming centers. From the standpoint of experienced farm operators, dairying is the major enterprise that might well be increased further in 1944....

The general conclusion of the report (Feed Concentrates in the Northeast) is that "Reducing numbers of cows appears to be neither generally desirable nor profitable as an adjustment to meet any probable reduction in feed concentrates. The war effort as well as individual interest would be best served by maintaining cow numbers, improving concentrate feeding practices, and depending more on home-grown forage." The limit has not been reached on production per acre. Application of greatly increased quantities of fertilizer, particularly nitrogen, to hay and pasture crops would increase the yields markedly. Considerably higher yields could be obtained on small grains and corn by heavier fertilization. This would be true also with potatoes, particularly in N. Y. and Pa. This would appear to be the best adjustment for the Northeast to make and it would be a major contribution to the war effort. It is also in keeping with long-time objectives for the Northeast....

Capacity exists for a variety of increases in agricultural production. ...Realizing any considerable portion of the now undeveloped capacity for production hinges upon more efficient roughage production and herd management. Assistance must be provided in the way of instruction or materials, or both, in addition to the incentives....It would seem that production of potatoes should be increased above the intentions; dairy cows should be maintained; and the goals on vegetables and dry beans met. Apparently this can be done by increasing yields of feed crops and potatoes through the use of more fertilizer, particularly nitrogen on hay and pasture, and by taking the necessary steps to encourage farmers to plant more potatoes and dry beans than their present intentions. The greatest opportunities lie in the improvement of hay and pasture, and in adjusting the feeding of concentrates.

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\*A limited supply of the complete text of Mr. Middaugh's talk is available in the AAA Regional office. We shall be glad to furnish a copy on request.



## SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS BY COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS

Alvin C. Watson, Soil Conservation Service: There is a new appreciation on the part of the public--both in our rural areas and in our cities--of the importance of the soil. People are beginning to understand that it is something alive, to take care of and nurture...The American agricultural plant was in pretty good condition at the outbreak of this war. The agricultural programs in the last decade have contributed much in making ready the land, the soil, the people. If it had not been for those tremendous supplies on hand of feed and fiber, our armies and our gallant allies would not have made the strides they have...We have a potential capacity to increase per acre yields on thousands and thousands of acres through the adoption of soil and water conservation practices...We have been cooperating with AAA at all levels, and AAA has been very helpful. I hope this can continue, because teamwork is essential any time, and especially in times like these.

W. H. Allen, New Jersey Commissioner of Agriculture: The most important projects in New Jersey are those in which all agencies are working together on some particular job...We are going to work shoulder to shoulder in New Jersey for a better agriculture in the State. If we work together I think we will have a program that will be sound. You can look forward to the State Department of Agriculture's 100 percent cooperation in any way we can assist you. I know we will get that same cooperation from you.

A. L. Gillett, General Agent, Farm Credit Administration: The best statement of cooperation between AAA and Farm Credit would be the calling of the roll of the men who are here. I would like to acknowledge the benefit which has come to our organizations through the development and operation of your programs...Looking ahead on things where we should be able to work together, we can help you to avoid more serious problems in the future to the extent that we maintain a sound and constructive appraisal policy, and prevent the type of inflation of land values which followed the last war...We recognize our responsibility to be constructive in the extension of credit. We should not be too tight, but we can do harm to the future if we are too easy...We will be getting in touch with you AAA people on some of our problems.

W. A. Munson, Director, Massachusetts Extension Service: We are one of many organizations that are trying to help the farmers get maximum production out of their lands and herds and flocks. We are trying to do our part and coordinate our efforts with the other agencies...We have by and large taken on the job of explaining the needs for production, explaining food utilization, and recommending production techniques, as well as assisting farmers to improve the business management of their farms.



## SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS BY COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS (Cont.)

Francis D. Cronin, Regional Director, Office of Distribution: The jobs of our two agencies supplement and complement each other. Your primary interest is production. Ours is distribution. But we can't have one without the other. We must work together closely -- and we are. Many of you are farmers as well as AAA officials. You and the other farmers of this country have produced so efficiently that you have made the job of our agency easier than it might have been if there had been serious scarcity of food. I look upon it as our responsibility not to let the farmers down by permitting food to be wasted through preventable inefficient distribution.

Consumers have been eating better in many ways than before the war. Famine has been linked with war for thousands of years, but the two have not been linked here in this country during the war to date. Even when we consider reduction in consumption of some things -- butter, processed fruits, sugar -- we are still far from famine... Our responsibility is to get food converted into fighting manpower on the foreign front and on the home front so we will win this war with the least possible loss of life... We appreciate your assistance in many of our programs. I assure you we are anxious to work with you in every possible way to assure the fullest utilization of agricultural commodities. We can help encourage the farmers of America to even greater production.

Dr. C. H. Lane, U. S. Office of Education: The Federal appropriation for agricultural instruction was the result of a nationwide need for such education in our high schools. The Smith-Hughes Act indicates that this kind of education is designed for persons over 14 years of age who have entered upon the work of the farm, and those who are preparing to enter upon farm work.

I strongly recommend that wherever possible the vocational agriculture instructors be employed on a fulltime basis. Courses can be given to three groups: (1) boys in high school, (2) young farmers who are not yet established on farms, (3) "Mr. Adult Farmers". Courses have been set up on farm machinery, increasing milk production, eggs and other goal crops. A new course has just been approved--soil conservation and water control, which emphasizes pasture improvement. I suggest that AAA State Committeemen contact your State Director of the Food Production War Training Program to see whether there is money available to start a course in soil conservation. If so, county committees should call a meeting of community committeemen, and agricultural teachers in the county. In order to get our programs across, we have to get together and pool our problems and experiences.



## SUMMARY OF STATEMENTS BY COOPERATING ORGANIZATIONS (Cont.)

James Wood, Regional Director, Farm Security Administration: FSA has excellent committees in our states and counties. And our folks are taught to cooperate...In talking about postwar plans in this meeting, I don't think we have put enough emphasis on the people on the farms -- including the women and children. They are even more important than food. I think too that we in agriculture have not done as good a job as we should in telling city people how important agriculture is... Our folks want to cooperate with AAA in every way. Tell us what to do and we will try to conduct ourselves in such a way that others can work with us.

W. S. Middaugh, Regional Rep., Bureau of Agricultural Economics: We welcome at any time suggestions or requests for special types of reports. We put our reports out with the express purpose and desire to give you information that will be helpful to you people and others in your work. BAE has recently made the following studies that would be of interest in the northeast: (1) Farm Production, Past, Present, Possible - in the Sheldon, Glover and Cavendish Areas of Vermont; (2) Feed Concentrates in the Northeast; (3) War Production Possibilities on Different Size Farms in the Northeast; (4) Wartime Production Problems in Pennsylvania. The new "Atlas on Postwar Planning" gives information and charts by counties in Northeast States. I will be glad to send a copy to anyone who asks for it.

G. L. Varney, Forest Service: A couple of years ago industry was told, "Make it out of wood; we don't have the steel." Yet today, the reverse is true... WPB has asked the Forest Service to give assistance in overcoming problems of production. The problems of lumber men are similar to those of the farmer: labor, equipment and gasoline. One of the big things AAA can do to help the Forest Service is to keep bringing to the attention of farmers the need for lumber... If you know a farmer in your area who has a woodlot with good timber, encourage him to cut it and deliver it in logs, or if he cannot do this, get him to place it on the market so that industry will buy it...I assure you that anything the Forest Service can do to help AAA, we will be happy to do. I know you are going to put across the need for forest products. In getting this lumber marketed, you may be furnishing crates to pack war materials that will help end the war sooner.



\*NATIONAL FARM PROBLEMS AND POLICIES: A LOOK AHEAD - R. M. Evans, Member, Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System: Farmers will face many of the same problems people in every business will face in the postwar world. Farms will be out of balance with sound soil conservation programs. Our markets have been distorted by abnormal war demands. And in the postwar period, because of better machinery, less people will be needed in agriculture. Some means will have to be found whereby industry will be able to keep those people employed in the reconversion period.

There are really two phases of the postwar period--immediate and long-time. Immediate will be after the actual fighting stops, the relief and lend lease required until a crop is raised in conquered countries. I am talking about long-time phase.

In discussing the future, it is necessary to make a few definite assumptions: First, of course, I am assuming we will win the war. Second, I assume we will recognize we are a part of the world. We are going to trade with that world and it is going to trade with us. Third, it will be necessary to maintain a high national income, well distributed over the entire population. People on relief are not people who will support a prosperous agriculture.

Keep abreast of the changes in demand for some of your commodities. Be alert to accepting new uses for farm products in industry which are developed by the research laboratories.

We must continue controls to prevent inflation now and in the immediate postwar period. There is danger in farm land inflation. We should pay as much of the cost of the war as possible by taxation as we go along, and what has to be borrowed should be borrowed from individuals and not from banks. When you sell a security to a bank it is just a bookkeeping transaction... On the whole, we have done a pretty fair job in stopping inflation in this country, but I am fearful that when the war is over, people will say, "Here we are back in an era of peace..let's get rid of these irksome controls." Don't get rid of them until the production of American industry has reached the place where it can furnish you with all the goods and services you want. When that day comes, then the controls will mean nothing as the law of supply and demand will take care of things. You farmers have done a truly magnificent job so far, but you still have to face some real problems in the postwar world...

The first thing you will have to do is to get back on a sound conservation basis so you will have an efficient and enduring farm production. Then you will face the problem of making the necessary readjustments in production. You have the machinery necessary to achieve that job, and you had better keep that machinery bright and shiny so you will be ready to jump out and do the job the minute it has to be done.

\* A copy of the complete text of Mr. Evans' talk will be furnished on request to the AAA Regional Office.



PROBLEMS AHEAD FOR NORTHEAST AGRICULTURE--Summary of talk by H. W. Soule, AAA Executive Assistant, Burlington, Vermont, member of USDA Regional Post-War Planning Committee: During the war we must prepare for the peace because, once the struggle is over, people will be willing to "let George do it."

The cooperative effort of the USDA and the Land Grant Colleges in planning for postwar agriculture will provide a means for farm people to participate in policy-making. An operating policy providing for joint responsibility is needed. If either groups fails in its responsibility, the results of the project will be greatly minimized.

Farm families in Vermont, like thousands of other farm families, want and are willing to make every necessary sacrifice for an early victory and a lasting peace. Farmers generally want:

- (1) Religious freedom
- (2) Political freedom
- (3) Social democracy
- (4) Economic security

In achieving these objectives there are obstacles to be overcome, such as intolerance, racial prejudice, social discrimination, and monopolistic practices. These must be overcome before we have a just and lasting peace.

Events of the last 20 years show that this country does not have to suffer another prolonged economic depression. It is possible to have economic security if we insist upon governmental policies and business practices which will provide for an economy of abundance rather than one of scarcity.

In the post war era, farmers want:

1. A fair price for their products
2. A fair relationship between the prices they receive and those they have to pay
3. A stable price level
4. Dependable sources of long-time and operating credit at reasonable rates of interest
5. Efficient marketing facilities
6. Adequate representation in legislative halls and the executive branch of our Government.

Farmers are anxious and willing to cooperate with other groups to insure a more stable economic order which will insure a sound and prosperous agriculture.



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Agricultural Adjustment Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Northeast Regional Conference  
New York City

March 29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE I - "What to do"  
As Adopted by the Conference

I. Selective Service

Plans for 1944 production are now being seriously delayed because of the uncertainty of the continued deferment of farm boys in the 18 to 26 age group. We recommend that the procedure of the Selective Service be clarified as soon as possible and farmers informed of that procedure.

2. Forage Production

Increased feed supplies can best be secured by increasing the supply of pasture and hay. We recommend that as much as possible of the available supply of nitrogen be used for early spring and mid-season application to hay and pasture lands to increase forage production.

3. Farm Machinery

Shortage of labor for haying makes the need for haying machinery critical. We recommend that more hay harvesting machinery be produced for 1944. More side delivery rakes, hayloaders and pickup balers are needed.

4. Seasonal Milk Production

In view of the fact that there is now a greater incentive to produce milk in the flush season than in the season of low production, we recommend that higher dairy production payments be made in the fall and winter period.

5. Increased Grain Production

We recommend that a program of increased production of corn, oats, barley, wheat and buckwheat for feed grains be carried out this year.

6. Potatoes

We recommend that the support price in dollars and cents be announced as soon as possible and that it be accompanied by a statement of the methods by which the support will be accomplished, and that the support be vigorously applied throughout the marketing season.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE I - "What to do" (Cont.)7. Egg and Poultry Production

We believe a support price is essential to egg production and recommend that (a) the support should extend to small producers through area assembly points, and (b) the support price reflect a favorable egg-feed ratio on the average yearly production.

8. Packages

Due to a critical shortage of new containers for fruits and vegetables, we recommend that an effective program be formulated to salvage all such containers and get them back to the farms.

9. Seasonal Labor

We commend the Extension Service and U. S. Employment Service for their efforts in securing seasonal labor and offer our cooperation.

S. R. Parker, Chairman - State Executive Assistant, AAA, Mass.  
 I. Ellingwood, Co. AAA Com., Coos County, N. H.  
 E. W. Holden, Co. Agt., Merrimack Co., N. H.  
 Lyman Peters, Co. AAA Com., Belknap Co., N. H.  
 M. C. Grey, State AAA Com., Mass.  
 Louis J. Pelissier, Co. AAA Com., Hampshire Co., Mass.  
 Joseph T. Brown, Co. Agt., Plymouth Co., Mass.  
 Harold Shaw, State AAA Com., Maine  
 Carl Smith, State Commissioner of Agriculture, Maine  
 E. Francis Branon, State AAA Com., Vermont  
 E. K. Wright, Co. AAA Com., Caledonia Co., Vermont  
 Charles S. Chaffee, Co. AAA Com., Bradford Co., Pa.  
 Frank A. Houser, Co. AAA Com., Mifflin Co., Pa.  
 A. L. Hacker, County Agent Leader, Pa.  
 William Supplee, Co. AAA Com., Warren Co., Pa.  
 Kenneth Roberts, State AAA Com., N. J.  
 W. H. Allen, State Secretary of Agriculture, N. J.  
 Clarence Wood, Co. AAA Com., Cayuga Co., N. Y.  
 Laurence P. Draper, Adm. Officer, N. Y. State AAA Office  
 Oscar Hallene, State AAA Com., R. I.  
 Edwin J. Knight, Co. AAA Com., Providence Co., R. I.  
 Paul Putnam, Adm. Officer, Conn. State AAA Office  
 H. W. Strickland, Co. AAA Com., Middlesex Co., Conn.  
 M. S. Parsons, BAE Regional Office, Upper Darby, Pa.



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Agricultural Adjustment Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Northeast Regional Conference  
New York City

March 29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE II - "How to do it"  
As Adopted by the Conference

1. Selective Service

An immediate clarification of Selective Service intentions as to men classified in II-C should be worked out on a state basis by meetings of the several State War Boards with their various State Selective Service Directors. At this meeting should be stressed the hardships incurred and the detriment to production by having II-C registrants placed in I-A and given a physical examination, even though he may again be placed in II-C or IV-F.

It is also recommended that County War Boards and local Selective Service Boards work closely together so that each understands the other's position.

2. Forage

Since we are apparently facing an acute shortage of protein meals and feed grains, we would urge each state to exert all possible efforts to produce as much of our own feed needs as possible. We urge the stimulation of all methods that will increase the growing of quality forage and pasture. Ways and means should be worked out to stimulate the use of fertilizers where it is known to be desirable.

We ask the Extension Service to intensify any and all programs that will help to produce more and better forage crops and pastures.

This committee recommends that a plan of offering ammonium nitrate to dairy farmers at a reduced price be worked out. In any state so requesting, consideration should be given to the possibility of using a purchase order plan using all or a portion of the dairy feed payments as credit and that in any state having funds available, ammonium nitrate should be supplied as a conservation material.

3. Farm Machinery

We recommend that the possibility be investigated for increasing 1944 haying, and harvesting machinery by using whatever plants, labor and material that may be available, even though the material may have been allocated for 1945 production.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE II - "How to do it" (Cont.)

Since outlook for increasing the production of haying machinery in 1944 does not look favorable, farmers should be urged to construct and use buck-rakes wherever feasible. All possible effort should be made to encourage the output of farm machinery for 1944. Special emphasis should be placed on a much increased production of all farm machinery for the 1945 crop year. State and county committees should immediately make their estimate for 1945 needs.

Farm machinery rationing committees should urge farmers to do custom work with large machines, such as combines, corn-pickers, and pickup balers.

4. Grain Production

It is recommended that the state committee study the grain production situation in their state and discuss it with county and community committees. We further recommend that more consideration be given to Extension Service recommendations for proper fertilization and selection of seed for corn for grain.

Consideration should be given to the establishment of county goals for corn and soybean production. It may be necessary for counties to work out special programs for the harvesting of field corn similar to those used in harvesting any seasonal crop.

Special effort to increase soybean acreage should be made by committees in counties adaptable to their production.

5. Potatoes

We recommend that the government support price for potatoes be announced at once. This announcement should contain the dollars and cents return that the farmer can expect to receive for his potatoes and should explain the details of the procedure in maintaining the announced support prices, including the loan and liquidation procedures.

6. Seasonal Milk Production

This committee believes the rate of dairy feed payments in this region should be graduated in such a way as to safeguard the fall production of milk which may fall below the needs for fluid purposes. These payments should be announced for a period of months and as far in advance as possible.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE II - "How to do it" (Cont.)7. Eggs

The support price for eggs should be one which gives the producer a favorable egg-feed ratio. In order that producers can be informed in advance of the price he will be assured for eggs at the farm, the following procedure for supporting prices is recommended.

- (1) Support prices on ungraded eggs at area assembly points should be calculated. These prices shall reflect to farmers a favorable average annual egg-feed ratio and must include cost of handling and shipping from farm to area assembly point.
- (2) Area assembly point designation should be based on two factors:  
(a) accessibility to producers and (b) available grading and handling facilities.
- (3) Support prices on graded eggs, in cases, at area assembly points should be calculated. These prices must provide for a large enough spread between the ungraded support price and the graded support price to provide grading, packing, cases, and other necessary handling charges incident to assembling a carload of eggs.
- (4) Federal purchasing agents should not accept eggs for which producers have not received at least the support price.
- (5) When grading and handling facilities cannot be obtained through private industry, these services shall be provided by the WFA Office of Distribution.

8. Packages

We are facing a loss of large quantities of critical foods because of scarcity of food containers. Therefore, we request some specific announcement from the War Food Administration concerning the supply of new containers for harvesting 1944 crops.

Due to this critical shortage of new containers for fruits and vegetables, we recommend that state and county committees, through good cooperative publicity campaigns stress immediate need for returning to farms all possible containers available for future crop use, and also sponsor a program for salvaging of containers from all available sources. War Food Administration should ask W.P.B. to instruct state salvage chairmen and committees to intensify all efforts to salvage all containers.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE II - "How to do it" (Cont.)

9. Labor

We recommend that the War Manpower Commission be informed of the depleted labor forces on the farms and in those agencies serving farmers with supplies and machinery, and that further loss of such labor to either the armed forces or other industries will result in a considerable reduction of our food supply.

10. Protein Set-aside Order

The production of poultry, dairy and livestock products in the Northeast Region is definitely influenced by the amount of protein feed that is available for distribution to feed manufacturers, feed mixers and farmers. It is our opinion that the protein set-aside order has made a definite contribution to the production of these products.

We recommend that the protein set-aside order be continued as a safeguard to future production of poultry, dairy and livestock products.

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 Raymond Clapp, Vice-Director of Extension, Conn.



WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
Agricultural Adjustment Agency  
Washington, D. C.

Northeast Regional Conference  
New York City

March 29, 1944

REPORT OF COMMITTEE III - "A Better Peace"  
As adopted by the Conference

The Committee feels that if we are to have a just and lasting peace --

If the lessons we have learned out of war,  
If the sacrifices made are to mean anything to future generations,  
If "our dead shall not have died in vain" --

we must certainly set about to build an internal economy in this country  
that will give to all groups

A fair share of the national income,  
A sense of security in their work, and  
A peace of mind so sorely needed by many millions of our people.

We also feel that the United States will emerge from the war with a great  
productive power. With great power goes great responsibility. This time  
it is absolutely essential that our great country assume its responsibility  
so far as international affairs are concerned -- take its rightful place  
of leadership in helping to build a better world in which forevermore wars  
will be outlawed.

An adequate diet for everyone and an economic system that will permit  
every able bodied person to earn enough to buy an adequate diet if he  
makes the effort are primary goals. Educational systems should teach  
the fundamentals of an adequate diet and its importance to health. The  
food for an adequate diet in this country will require the production  
from all our cropland with an increase in yield per acre of 20 percent.

Farmers should be expected to produce all the consumers will buy, plus  
a small surplus to take care of emergencies. Parity prices and income  
for farmers, supported by loans or purchases, will be necessary to take  
care of excessive production resulting from unusually favorable weather  
and other unpredictable factors. Adjustments of agricultural production  
and care of surpluses outside of normal channels of distribution are  
necessary phases of the program to maintain parity prices and income  
and to assure stabilization. Economic stabilization will also call for  
avoidance of extremes of inflation and deflation. Full employment in  
both industry and agriculture at a fairly high wage level is essential  
for stabilization, in view of size of government debt.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE III - "A Better Peace" (Cont.)

The present economic stabilization program should be continued at least through the period of postwar readjustment. The rise in wholesale prices and the cost of living during this war has been held to one-half the increase which occurred in World War I. Without the economic stabilization program, a greater increase undoubtedly would have occurred during this war, because a much larger proportion of our effort has gone into producing war materials. The bidding for scarce civilian goods would have resulted in excessively inflationary prices.

Although prices of agricultural products as a group have been permitted to rise more than prices of all commodities, there are still individual agricultural commodities that are not at parity levels. To meet the changing and prospective problems of agriculture, emphasis should be placed on the need of local discussion to develop policies and programs requiring the machinery of government for their proper implementation.

From the earliest Colonial days American agriculture has depended upon foreign markets to take a part of its production. Foreign outlets greatly declined for many commodities after World War I, and this was one of the major causes of the prolonged agricultural depression in this country after 1920.

Up until the end of the first or second crop year after the war is over, the people of Europe and Asia will want food. The demand for food in Europe and Asia will increase as the war continues. Demands will probably become increasingly stronger as peoples are liberated. As soon as the war is over, every effort will be made by the war torn countries to get back on their feet insofar as food and fiber production for home use is concerned. So, it appears now that the demand for many of the agricultural products which we are now shipping abroad under Lend-Lease will decline a year or two after war's end.

Thereafter we will be able to produce some farm commodities for export, even after our own people have had all they want to eat under a proper diet. Payments for these exports will have to be made in goods and services; since we have most of the world's monetary gold. Services that we will need may be limited, since we have a large Merchant Marine and great air transport facilities.

If the recommendations of the United Nations Food Conference are carried out, there will be a big expansion in world food production and distribution. There will be need for adjustments as well as stimulation of production. This will call for cooperative action of farmers of all countries working through an international organization similar to our A.A.A. to adjust production and distribution of food and fiber. Such an organization was evidently contemplated by the United Nations Food Conference and we trust is being given consideration at the present time.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE III - "A Better Peace" (Cont.)

In the United States full production and full employment of the war years have provided good markets for agricultural products. New and expanded industrial employment opportunities will be needed to absorb the millions from the armed forces and the millions of industrial workers who will be demobilized at the end of the war. Employment for these is essential for the maintenance of good markets for agricultural products. Other reasons for agriculture to cooperate with labor and industry is that some farm operators work in industry part time and many of the services and facilities that make for improved living and working conditions are mutual problems for all farm and nonfarm rural people.

Cooperation of agriculture, management, labor, and government on all the problems of planning for the postwar period is absolutely essential to give us full production, full employment and a balanced economy. Success will depend upon (1) agreement not only on objectives, but also on methods and timing of steps to be taken, (2) anticipating conditions that may develop, and (3) taking action to control events so that they will aid or at least not interfere in attaining the objectives.

Agreement on objectives and methods should come from cooperative discussion and agreement by agriculture, labor and industry. These groups will not cooperate to the extent necessary until there is a better understanding of the interdependence and the need for working together. Agriculture can and should take the lead, without delay, in developing this mutual understanding.

Community and county groups of all farm organizations and groups should bring into some of their meetings representatives of labor, industry and banking. Farm leaders should discuss this issue in meetings of Chambers of Commerce, Rotary, etc. Conference with leaders from labor, management, and banking will also be helpful. To do this, farmers, especially farm leaders, need specific information developed for this purpose -- information that indicates the interrelationships.

Anticipating conditions that may develop can and should be done in a number of different ways. Analysis of past trends and a projection into the future is one basis for anticipating what may be expected. Sampling farmer opinion to determine desires and intentions of rural people is another way. Familiarity with "intentions to plant" reports give agriculture experience in using this type of information. Group discussion of farm people and then of representative farm people with representatives of other groups after they have gone through the same processes is a fundamental step of the democratic procedure in agreeing upon objectives.



REPORT OF COMMITTEE III - "A Better Peace" (Cont.)

The type of action to be taken to control events so that they will aid or at least not interfere in attaining the agreed upon objectives should be arrived at by joint, cooperative planning of agriculture, labor and industry -- cooperative planning in an atmosphere where group interests are secondary to the welfare of all. One method might be to establish an Economic Supreme Court, whose function would be to hear and weigh the economic evidence and render decisions as to the type of action that would control events so that they will aid or at least not interfere with the attainment of objectives for the welfare of all, most important of which is a balanced internal economy so essential to our economic well being.

Agriculture can take the lead in an important step toward the establishment of the kind of economy that is desired in the postwar period, take the lead by demonstrating that it is willing to recognize the need to avoid exploitation of any opportunity to get more than its fair share of the national income. This means forgetting and forgiving all previous periods of less than a fair share of the national income, as well as foregoing future opportunities of obtaining more than a fair share. "Share and play fair" needs to be more than a motto, as does "A rich soil and a healthy agriculture for a strong nation."

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THE CHALLENGE OF TODAY--Summary of talk by George Dykhuizen, Department of Philosophy, University of Vermont, Burlington: There was a time in the history of our country when the people of America were in that state of mind which is so essential a condition to the health and sanity of men and nations alike. It was that state of unconscious, unreflective energy in which our national faith was like the air we breathed -- something taken for granted and made the basis of positive, vigorous, and assured action.

Our fundamental ideas were no longer topics for debate. They were accepted as true and functioned primarily as the presuppositions of all our thinking on political, economic, and social matters. In the realm of morals, we believed that each individual had certain inalienable rights which had to be respected. In the field of government, we held that the least government was the best government. In the area of business, we felt that free enterprise, vigorous competition, individual ownership, and private capital were best. In the field of international relations, we held that America should not meddle in the affairs of other nations, but should demonstrate to the rest of the world that democracy, as we understood it, could work. All of these ideas we worked out to our satisfaction in our social structure.

But changes were in the making, slowly at first and then with ever increasing rapidity, till finally we have today a social order in which we find:

1. That group action has, for the most part, supplanted individual action in our national economy.
2. That the various parts of our domestic economy are profoundly interdependent.
3. That liberal government with a hands-off policy is giving way to a social service state.
4. That the fortunes of our country are inextricably tied up with the fortunes of other countries.

These changes in our economic and social order have placed us in a predicament -- a predicament of serious and large enough proportions to be called a crisis. The essence of the crisis is this. Our traditional ideas no longer fit new conditions. The new wine will not go into the old bottles.

The challenge which this situation brings to us is to rethink and re-interpret our traditional ideas about government, economics, and international affairs. We are faced with nothing less than the necessity of thinking out a new social philosophy which, when applied to life, will both save our democratic heritage and fit in with the changed conditions of the twentieth century. This is a difficult and painful task, but one which we cannot avoid if we would be worthy citizens of a democratic nation.



SOME MORAL ASPECTS OF CURRENT FARM PROBLEMS AND POLICIES--Summary of talk  
by George Dykhuizen, Department of Philosophy, University of Vermont,  
Burlington:

If the farmers of this country are to assume their full share of the duties and responsibilities which the current crisis imposes on the people of America, they must supplement a narrow, economic and practical approach to their problems with that wider moral and more human approach which has traditionally been associated with philosophy. It is not enough for farmers to know how a certain farm program is going to affect agricultural markets and prices. It is also necessary for them to know what it will do to those basic democratic values of liberty and equality which we all recognize as cornerstones of our traditional American way of life. As profound changes go on all around us, it is enormously important that we appraise these changes properly. This, however, calls for a clear understanding as to what is meant by the terms liberty and equality and for a plan of life which will fit these values, along with others, into a consistent scheme of life.

Many persons today share the view of eighteenth century thinkers that individuals are complete within themselves and that their enjoyment of the rights of liberty and equality depends simply upon their formal guarantee by law. But equal justice before the law, important as it is, does not by itself always secure the enjoyment of genuine liberty and genuine equality. For liberty and equality are not pre-existent absolutes which exist in and by themselves in some self-contained individual, but they are always functions of a larger total situation which has much to do with the amount of liberty and equality enjoyed by an individual. Someone in poor health, without a position, with a meager education, with many dependents, enjoys one kind of liberty and equality. A person in good health, with steady employment, professional skill, and few dependents enjoys these rights in quite a different manner. Unless, then, the larger situation is favorable, an individual may enjoy a minimum amount of genuine liberty and equality even though he is formally entitled to equal justice before the law. It follows, thus, that justice before the law must be supplemented by programs which will correct conditions preventing some people from enjoying those rights to which we believe they are entitled.

It is well to recognize a further fact, namely, that liberty for some means restraint for others. This follows from the very nature of liberty in a complex social order. For what an individual is free to do or not to do depends upon what other individuals are permitted to do and not to do. Thus, increased liberty at one point in the social order means a decreased amount of it at another place. In fact, the system of liberties in force at any time reveals the system of controls in force at that time, just as the set of restrictions in a social order make clear the set of liberties existing in that order. It is evident, therefore, that the desire for a certain set of liberties for some is at the same time a desire for a certain set of controls for others; and, conversely, the demand for a particular system of controls is at the same time a demand for a particular system of liberties. In short, the issue involved in any proposed social change is never that of



all liberty on one side and all restraint on the other. Rather, it is always that of one system of liberties and restraints opposed to another system of liberties and restraints.

A final consideration is this. Sacrifice of freedom in one field by an individual may mean added liberties for him in another field. Thus, less liberty in economic activity because group action has been substituted for individual action might conceivably mean more liberty in other areas of endeavor. A laborer taking membership in a union or a farmer participating in a group program will of necessity have restrictions placed upon his individual business activities, but insofar as this cooperative action makes for a higher monetary income he will have increased liberty to feed and clothe his family or to educate his children. The moral test to be applied in all instances where restrictions are placed on an individual's activities is this: Do these restrictions create more liberty than they take away.

In trying to think these and other values together in a coherent and satisfactory theory of life and conduct, the important idea to keep in mind is this. Our first loyalty must be not to some "ism," such as competitive individualism or cooperative collectivism but to the values which democracy professes to serve. All plans, programs, and organizations must be judged in the light of what they do to these values. Then only will our democratic heritage be safe.

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Response from the Region - Geo. W. Schuler, Penna., AAA State Committeeman:

We must conserve our soil resources, see that farmers receive a fair income, and that consumers, the military forces and lend-lease have an adequate supply of food and fiber. We must continue the agricultural program so that we are worthy to continue as a part of the great farm movement. History reveals that when agriculture is neglected, the nation is doomed.

The attitude of the farm people as I see it manifests optimism in the future. Agriculture isn't so bad financially speaking as some people would make it appear, although it isn't a get-rich-quick scheme.

War boards have great responsibility. When we assume responsibility, it must be administered with the greatest care. We can make a real contribution in making recommendations to Selective Service boards.

If all groups represented at this conference cooperate in 1944 -- and there is work for all of us to do -- we are going to get that all-out production.



## SUMMARY OF TALKS

Statement for the Delegates - Fred J. Nutter, Maine AAA State Committeemen:  
 I liked this conference. I think we have gotten a lot from it. Everyone has had an opportunity and has felt free to say what he thought -- and that's healthy. I particularly liked the informal way in which Judge Jones and Grover Hill sat down here with us and entered into our discussion. I liked the masterful way that Judge Jones outlined the job we have ahead -- making no promises that it would be an easy job. Then we go home from this conference, knowing we are not going to have an easy time, every one of us -- and all the rest of the farmers in this northeastern region -- are going to take hold and do our best. When the war is over, the farmers will have nothing to apologize for. Sure we'll lose some labor. We won't have enough machinery. But let it be said, and I know it will be said, "We did our best." ...After this war, industry, labor and agriculture must sit down together and determine the future welfare of this country. If everyone could read the report of the conference on "A Better Peace" -- could study the report and carry it out, our country would be safe.

Mr. Manchester's closing remarks: ...We have the knowledge and power to maintain reasonably fair prices for agriculture, not only now but in the postwar period. But we would lose it -- and we ought to lose it -- if we abuse that power. We can maintain it as long as we use it for the good of agriculture and the good of the country...

In 1932 we had 375 million acres of crops. This year that acreage may be equaled. But this year, with normal weather, we can expect at least 20% more crop products than we could expect in 1932 with normal weather. That increase is due to the improvements that have been made in agriculture, because of soil conservation and other improvements in agricultural methods that have taken place since 1932. That's equal to adding 75 million acres to that 375 million.

Mr. Evans referred to the Triple-A as an effective machine. The machine in this region is better than it has been before -- because you have more of the machine working. The progress we make is going to be made by using the community committees to the limit of their capacity. I hope that you county committeemen will resolve to get from your community committees all they are able to contribute to the effort.

We have had three fine committee reports. The recommendations of the first two all called for action. Part of them are things for us to do, or try to do, in Washington. I can pledge you we will do our best to try to carry out your instructions. The rest of the recommendations point out to the State and county things for you to do. Each one of us here is now charged by these reports with definite things that you asked to do.

I want to thank the people from the cooperating agencies. You have given us samples of perfect cooperation. We know we are going to continue with even greater success than in the past to team up wherever teamwork is called for.







WAR FOOD ADMINISTRATION  
AGRICULTURAL ADJUSTMENT AGENCY  
Northeast Region

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